



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Criminology
Violence Research Centre



Violence Research Centre REPORT

2020-2021

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Foreword

Prof Manuel Eisner
VRC Director

A year on, Covid-19 still dominates the headlines. However, we are starting to see some hopeful changes as the Institute reopens for the new academic year, buoyed by the vaccination programmes in the UK and other countries.

This report covers the academic year 2020-2021. In October 2020 we had a cautious start at the Institute of Criminology in the Michaelmas term, followed by a long winter lockdown, when we all returned to operate remotely. It has been very challenging, personally and professionally, for students, academic and administration staff here in Cambridge.

Again, we harnessed digital technology to keep in touch and progress our research collaborations. I am pleased to say it has been a very productive year overall and a very fruitful year for sharing our research findings through publication in prestigious journals, our website, our and our partners' social media. We hosted and were invited to a number of virtual events, including talks and conferences, great opportunities to showcase research projects and talk about emerging, interdisciplinary fields in criminology research.

As I write, there is still some uncertainty about the future, especially regarding in-person events, conferences and international fieldwork. In the meantime, the best way to keep up to date with our research projects and to find out about the latest VRC publications is to visit our website at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk.

Manuel Eisner

Research Projects 2020-2021

- Organised Crime, Illegal Governance and Communities (i-Gov)
- Zurich Project on the Social Development from Childhood to Adulthood (z-proso)
- Addressing online and offline bullying - effective intervention strategies
- Crime & Networks Group
- São Paulo Project on the Social Development of Children (sp-proso)
- Covid-19 and the Psychological Wellbeing of Police Officers and Health Workers in Ghana
- Evidence for Better Life Study (EBLS)
- Ethical Failures in Policing
- Crime during the Covid-19 Crisis: A Global Analysis

We have introduced hyperlinks to web pages and other documents whenever possible.

Events and Public Engagement



Turn to page 18 to read about our 2020-2021 events. We continued research dissemination activities by hosting virtual events via zoom and our experts participated to virtual conferences across the world.

Organised Crime, Illegal Governance and Communities (i-Gov)

Team: Dr Paolo Campana, Prof Federico Varese (PIs); Dr Cecilia Meneghini (Postdoctoral Researcher); Dr Ben Bradford (Affiliate Member, University College London); Alyssa Knisley (PhD Student)



Ehimetator Akhere Unuabona, Unsplash



The Illegal Governance (i-Gov) project aims to identify and explore instances of illegal governance in local communities across the United Kingdom. A focus on illegal governance allows scholars to retain the crucial distinction between producers of goods and services on the one hand and suppliers of forms of regulation on the other. In this view, organised crime attempts to regulate and control the production and distribution of a given commodity or service unlawfully. Such an aspiration requires investments in a special set of resources, which are not necessarily available to illegal producers and traders.

Illegal governance of communities is a phenomenon traditionally associated with regions of the world with a high density of Mafia-like organisations, like Sicily, Russia, Hong Kong, or more recently, Latin America. Yet the governance dimension of organised crime is not just a feature of mafias and cartels, it is also undertaken by criminal groups in territories outside of the conventional settings. It is operationalised through the i-Gov Index based on indirect measures, including the ability of an organised crime group to:

- Generate fear in a community
- Coerce legal businesses
- Influence public officials
- Control illicit markets
- Play a role in community activities.

Find out more at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/illegal-governance

Key publications

Campana, P. and Varese, F. (2020). "Studying organized crime networks: data sources boundaries and the limits of structural measures". *Social Networks*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2020.03.002>

Campana, P. (2020). "Human Smuggling: Structure and Mechanisms". *Crime & Justice*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1086/708663>

Baika, L. and **Campana, P.** (2020). "Centrality, Mobility and Specialization: A Study of Drug Markets in a Non-metropolitan Area in the United Kingdom". *Journal of Drug Issues*, 50:2, 107-216.

Zurich Project on the Social Development



Investigators: Prof Manuel Eisner, PI and Co-director, University of Cambridge, UK and University of Zurich, Switzerland; Dr Denis Ribeaud, Co-director, University of Zurich, Switzerland; Prof Lilly Shanahan, Co-director, University of Zurich, Switzerland. *Find out the whole list of collaborators at www.jacobscenter.uzh.ch/en/research/zproso/ziren.html*



Artem Kniaz, Unsplash

The Zurich Project on the Social Development from Childhood to Adulthood (z-proso) is an internationally important longitudinal study that explores the life-course of 1,400 youths (originally 1,657 children) since their admission to the first year of Zurich's primary schools in the autumn of 2004.

z-proso studies the social development of children and youths, with a particular focus on aggressive and delinquent behaviour, but also on prosocial characteristics. It investigates how individual, family, school and situational factors work together in the development of aggression and other problem behaviour. Children have been regularly followed since 2004 and the most recent wave of data collection was carried out in 2018 at age 20. Currently, the zIREN research network includes researchers from 27 universities.

Over the waves, the study included experimental assessments of risk-seeking behaviour, measures of friendship networks and assessments of pubertal development. The study has extensive repeated measures on aggression, bullying, victimisation and self-reported offending. It now also comprises data on criminal records of participants.

z-proso is complemented by a field experiment aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of two early prevention programmes: Triple P (a parent training programme) and Denk-Wege (formerly PATHS in English, a school-based social skills training programme). The cultural diversity of the sample, the long running time and the excellent retention rate of 90% distinguish this project. Since 2017, z-proso is mainly based at the Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development at

from Childhood to Adulthood (z-proso)

the University of Zurich. The Jacobs Foundation and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) have provided long-term financial support since 2003. From 2017 to date, z-proso has been mainly funded by the SNSF as a national research infrastructure. The study has reached the milestone of over 100 papers published in academic journals.

Virtual workshop - 26-27 August 2021

Image courtesy of Jacobs Center



On 26 and 27 August 2021, members of the zIReN (the international research network) met via zoom for a series of talks. You can spot Prof Manuel Eisner (top row, third from left) and our PhD student Laura Campo (top row, sixth from left). Presentations included: An

Overview of Key Findings by Dr Aja Murray, who is affiliated with the VRC on a number of projects; talks on ADHD symptoms and substance abuse; victimisation and offending; consequences of substance abuse on behaviour; youth crime and contact with police; injurious behaviours and bullying. Laura Campo's contribution was entitled: *Resilience factors buffering the effects of adolescent dating violence victimisation*. Other affiliate members of the VRC that contributed to the workshop with talks included Co-director Prof Lilly Shanahan, Prof Izabela

Zych, Dr Margit Averdijk and Dr Amy Nivette. A number of delegates and local staff involved in the project met after the virtual workshop, including Prof Manuel Eisner, who is the principal investigator and study's Co-director (pictured in the centre).

Photo courtesy of Jacobs Center



Key publications

- Defoe, I.; van Gelder, J.-L.; Ribeaud, D.; **Eisner, M.** (2021). 'The co-development of friend delinquency with adolescent delinquency and short-term mindsets: The moderating role of co-offending'. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-021-01417-z>
- **Eisner, M.**, Averdijk, M., Kaiser, D., Murray A., Nivette, A., Shanahan, L., van Gelder, J.-L., Ribeaud, D. (2021). 'The association of polyvictimization with violent ideations in late adolescence and early adulthood. A longitudinal study'. *Aggressive Behavior*, advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ab.21965>
- Huijsmans, T.; Nivette, A.; **Eisner, M.**; Ribeaud, D. (2021). 'Social influences, peer delinquency, and low self-control: An examination of time-varying and reciprocal effects on delinquency over adolescence'. *European Journal of Criminology*, 18(2), 192-212. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370819838720>
- McKenzie, K.; Murray, A. L.; Murray, G. C.; Maguire, A.; **Eisner, M.**; Ribeaud, D. (2018). 'Validation of the English language version of the Violent Ideations Scale (VIS)'. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(5-6), 2942–2952. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518757227>
- Murray, A.; **Eisner, M.**; Ribeaud, D.; Kaiser, D.; McKenzie, K.; Murray, G. (2021). 'Validation of a brief self-report measure of adolescent bullying perpetration and victimization: The Zurich Brief Bullying Scales (ZBBS)'. *Assessment*, 28(1), 128-140. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1073191119858406>

This is a short selection, for the full list, please visit www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/z-proso

Addressing online and offline bullying - effective intervention strategies

Team: Dr Hannah Gaffney, Dr Maria Ttofi, Prof David P. Farrington



Aedrian, Unsplash

Earlier publications from a Jacobs Foundation-funded project established the effectiveness of school-based face-to-face bullying prevention programmes based on over 100 evaluations (Gaffney, Ttofi, & Farrington, 2019), estimating reductions of bullying perpetration by approximately 19-20% and school bullying victimisation by roughly 15%-16%. Further work also established the effectiveness of school-based intervention programmes to reduce online bullying perpetration and victimisation based on 24 independent evaluations (Gaffney, Farrington, Espelage, Ttofi, 2019), estimating reductions of cyberbullying perpetration by approximately 10%-15% and cyberbullying victimisation by around 14%.

School-based antibullying programmes seem to be effective, but what works for whom? And under what circumstances? Our latest work (Gaffney, Ttofi, & Farrington, 2021) aims to address these major questions by investigating the most effective intervention components in the existing RCT and quasi-experimental evaluations. Meta-analytical subgroup comparisons analogous to ANOVA were computed to examine the relationship between the presence of specific components and the effectiveness in reducing bullying perpetration ($n = 82$) and victimisation ($n = 86$).

We found that the presence of a whole-school approach, clear anti-bullying policies and classroom rules were significantly associated with reductions in bullying perpetration. Evaluations that included individual work with victims, information for parents and informal peer involvement in bullying situations were also more strongly related with reductions in bullying prevalence. With regards to victimisation, the presence of informal peer involvement and information for parents were association with larger reductions in victimisation prevalence.

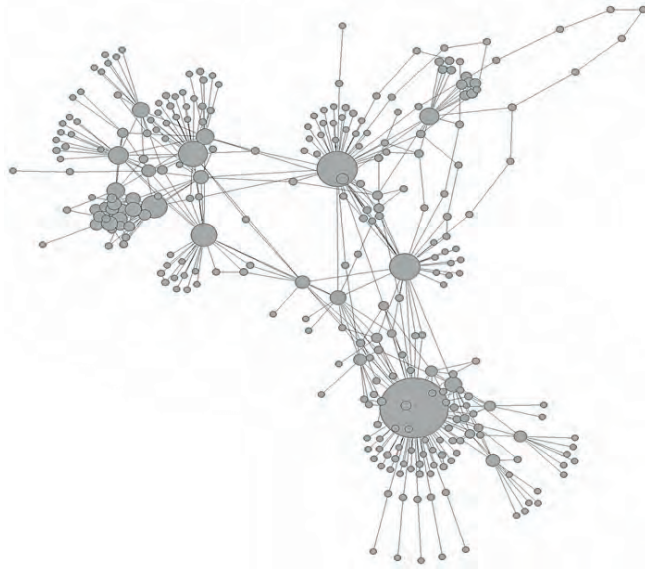
Find out more at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/addressing-online-and-offline-bullying-effective-intervention-strategies

Key publication

Gaffney, H., Ttofi, M.M., & Farrington, D.P. (2021). 'What works in anti-bullying programs? Analysis of effective intervention components'. *Journal of School Psychology*, 85, 37 – 56.

Crime & Networks Group

Dr Paolo Campana, Group Leader; PhD researchers: Sophie Dixon, Nicholas Goldrosen and Alyssa Knisley; Collaborators: Dr Alberto Caimo, Technological University Dublin, Dr Andrea Giovannetti, University of Technology Sydney, Dr Isabella Gollini, University College Dublin, Dr Nynke Niezink, Carnegie Mellon University



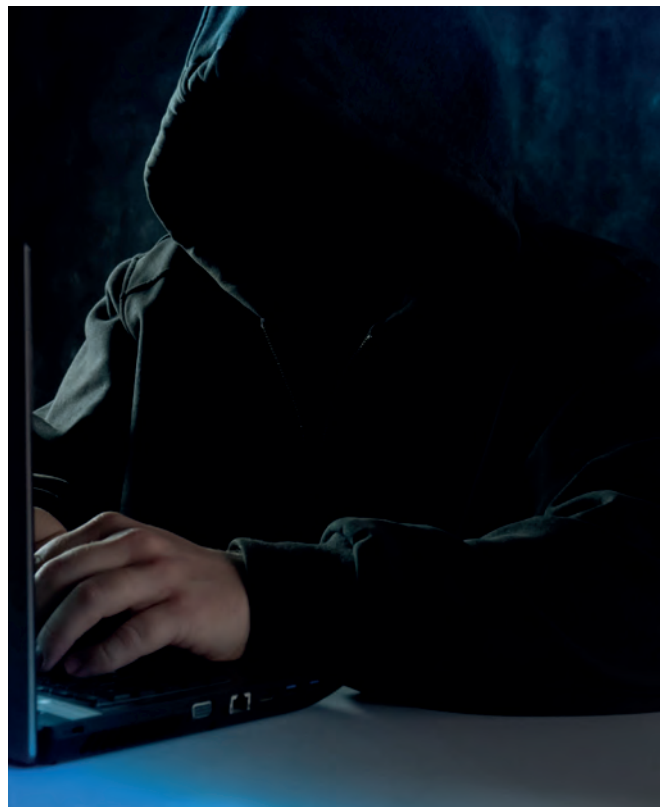
Migrant smuggling network (Campana 2018)

Crime & Networks
Group



The Crime & Networks Group includes researchers working on the application of social network analysis techniques to model and understand the mechanisms underpinning a range of illegal phenomena including violence, organised crime groups and illegal markets (e.g. drugs, human trafficking and migrant smuggling).

Find out more at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/crime-networks-group



Bermix Studio, Unsplash

Key publications

Campana, P., & Giovannetti, A. (2020). “Predicting Violence in Merseyside: a Network-Based Approach Using No Demographic Information”. *Cambridge Journal of Evidence-Based Policing*, 4(3), 89-102

Gollini, I., Caimo, A. and **Campana, P. (2020).** “Modelling interactions among offenders: A latent space approach for interdependent ego-networks”. *Social Networks*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2020.07.001>

São Paulo Project on the Social Development of Children (sp-proso)

Team: Prof Maria Fernanda Peres, University of São Paulo (Principal Investigator), Prof Manuel Eisner, University of Cambridge (Co-investigator), Dr Renata Bertazzi Levy, Dr Catarina Machado Azeredo, Dr Leandro Fórniás Machado de Rezende, Dr Marília Pontes Sposito, Dr Márcia Thereza Couto Falcão



Laercio Cavalcanti, Unsplash

Brazil has exceptionally high levels of interpersonal violence, including youth violence and victimisation. This project, funded by a British Academy grant (Newton Advanced Fellowship), is conducting a cross-sectional, school-based survey with 14-15 year-old adolescents in São Paulo, Brazil. It uses the methodology of the Zurich Project on the Development from Childhood to Adulthood (z-proso) and the Montevideo Project on the Social Development of Children (m-proso) to research risk and protective factors for violent behaviour and victimisation.

The project has a dedicated Brazilian website at <https://sites.usp.br/sp-proso>. In November 2019, a report entitled *Violence, Bullying and Repercussions on Health* was published. You can find the project's publications in English and Portuguese at <https://sites.usp.br/sp-proso/pagina-2/>. The research has gained considerable media coverage in Brazil. Find out more at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/sp-proso

Key publications

Astolfi, R.C., Leite, M.A., Papa, C.H.G. et al. 'Association between self-control and health risk behaviors: a cross-sectional study with 9th grade adolescents in São Paulo'. *BMC Public Health* 21, 1706 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-11718-4>

Ferrari, G., Rezende, L.F.M., Florindo, A.A. et al. 'School environment and physical activity in adolescents from São Paulo city'. *Sci Rep* 11, 18118 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-97671-z>

Faisal-Cury, A., Leite, M., Escuder, M., Levy, R., & Peres, M. (2021). The relationship between ultra-processed food consumption and internalising symptoms among adolescents from São Paulo city, Southeast Brazil. *Public Health Nutrition*, 1-9. doi:[10.1017/S1368980021004195](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1368980021004195)

Quinlan-Davidson M, Kiss L, Devakumar D, Cortina-Borja M, Eisner M, Tourinho Peres MF (2021) 'The role of social support in reducing the impact of violence on adolescents' mental health in São Paulo, Brazil'. *PLoS ONE* 16(10): e0258036. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0258036>

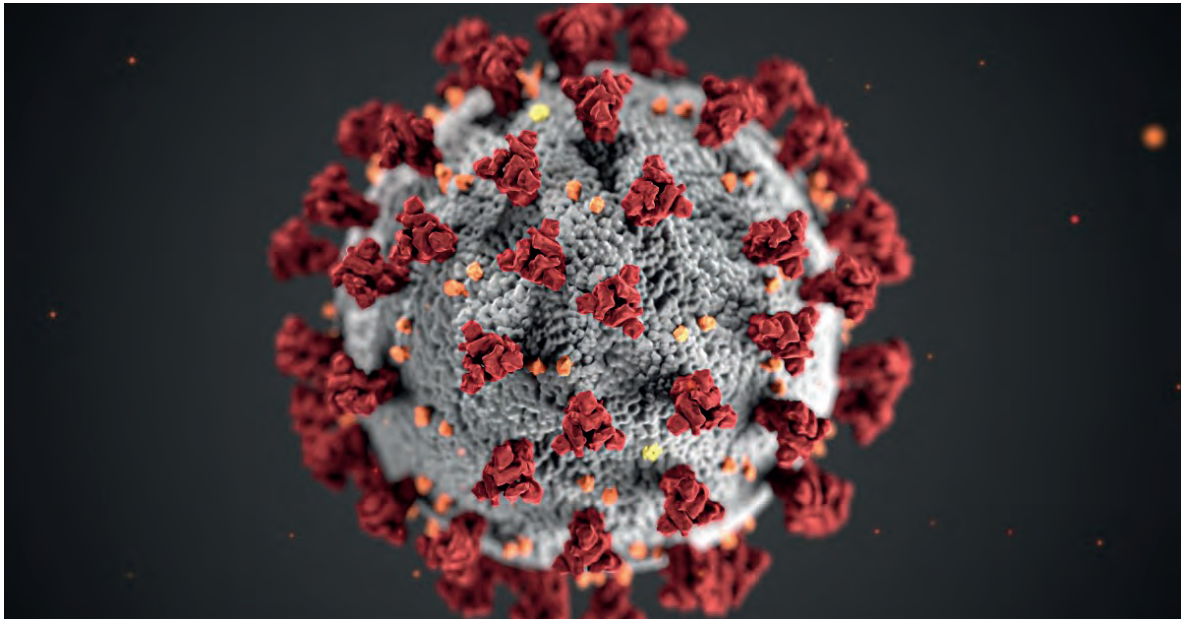
Ferrari G, Rezende LF, Wagner GA, et al. 'Physical activity patterns in a representative sample of adolescents from the largest city in Latin America: a cross-sectional study in Sao Paulo'. *BMJ Open* 2020;10:e037290. doi: [10.1136/bmjopen-2020-037290](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-037290)

Loch, A.P., Astolfi, R.C., Leite, M.A. et al. Victims, bullies and bully-victims: prevalence and association with negative health outcomes from a cross-sectional study in São Paulo, Brazil. *Int J Public Health* 65, 1485–1495 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00038-020-01481-5>

Amy Nivette, Nico Trajtenberg, Manuel Eisner, Denis Ribeaud, Maria Fernanda Tourinho Peres. 'Assessing the measurement invariance and antecedents of legal cynicism in São Paulo, Zurich, and Montevideo'. *Journal of Adolescence*, Volume 83, 2020, Pages 83-94, ISSN 0140-1971, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2020.06.007>

Covid-19 and the Psychological Wellbeing of Police Officers and Health Workers in Ghana

Team: Dr Justice Tankebe, University of Cambridge & Dr Samuel Adjorlolo, University of Ghana



The Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund Covid-19 Emergency Awards awarded funds in spring 2020 for the new research project: 'Covid-19 and the Psychological Wellbeing of Frontline Workers in Ghana'. This research project is co-led by Dr Justice Tankebe, VRC and Dr Samuel Adjorlolo, Department of Mental Health, University of Ghana.

Since its outbreak in Wuhan (China) in December 2019, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), has become a global pandemic. Throughout this time, governments have continued to take various measures to control the spread of the virus. These measures include physical distancing and lockdown - both aimed at limiting contacts with potential carriers of the virus. For health workers and police officers, being in daily contacts with patients and the public means potentially heightened anxiety.

This research project aims to explore the psychological wellbeing of these frontline professionals in Ghana. It will involve repeated surveys and in-depth interviews to track changes in wellbeing and coping strategies during these difficult times. The study promises crucial data on the effects of responding to Covid-19, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, on response groups, providing evidence for early interventions to improve the wellbeing of these individuals.



Photo: Ghana Police Service

Find out more at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/covid-19-research/covid-19-and-psychological-wellbeing-police-officers-and-health-workers-ghana

Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS)



Consortium: Prof Manuel Eisner/Prof Claire Hughes, University of Cambridge, UK; Dr Aja Murray, University of Edinburgh, UK; Prof Adriana Baban, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania; Prof Michael Dunne, Queensland University of Technology, Australia; Prof Pasco Fearon, University College London, UK; Prof Asvini D. Fernando, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka; Prof Bernadette Madrid, University of the Philippines,

The Philippines; Dr Joseph Osafo, University of Ghana, Ghana; Prof Assad Hafeez/Prof Siham Sikander, Health Services Academy, Pakistan; Prof Vo Van Thang, University of Hue, Vietnam; Prof Mark Tomlinson, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Prof Susan Walker, Caribbean Institute for Health Research, University of the West Indies; Prof Catherine Ward, University of Cape Town, South Africa.



Axel Chuklanov, Unsplash

The Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS) is a collaboration of 13 universities and eight study sites in four different continents. In each city, the early childhood development of 150 children within their family and community contexts has been evaluated. In each site, the study was accompanied by efforts to introduce and evaluate multi-sectoral prevention packages that can help young children to achieve their full potential. EBLS examines exposure to violence and other adverse experiences while also striving to illuminate how families in different cultures raise and support their children. It aims to contribute to global violence reduction as part of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2017 the Fondation Botnar agreed to fund an 18-month pilot study. An international research network, led by a Consortium, was set up to liaise with study partners to contribute to effective policies that protect children. In 2018 and 2019, the Consortium implemented a pilot version of EBLS in eight low- and middle-income countries (LMICs): Ghana, Jamaica, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The pilot's data included 1,208 pregnant women who were assessed during the third trimester of their pregnancy and when their child was around three months old. Measures obtained from mothers included mental and physical health, attitudes to corporal punishment, adverse childhood experiences, pre-natal intimate partner violence (p-IPV), substance use and social/community support. Hair and dry blood spot (DBS) samples were collected from the pregnant women to measure stress markers. Additionally, to explore research participation among fathers, EBLS recruited 300 fathers in the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The research partners of each site liaised with local and national policy makers, NGOs and international organisations to diffuse knowledge and foster policy impact. Needs and resources in each site were assessed through interviews with experts, local government officials and practitioners, following WHO's INSPIRE



framework. The findings of the pilot study were documented in *Addressing Violence Against Children: Mapping the Needs and Resources in Eight Cities Across the World*, which was launched at the Second EBLs Symposium in November 2019, held at Jesus College, Cambridge. Two films, produced thanks to an ESRC Impact Acceleration grant to introduce EBLs to policymakers and general audiences, were also

premiered. The films can be viewed at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/EBLS, the dedicated page of the project. An impact report was produced in June 2020 and a final report was submitted to funders in August 2021 (both available on the project's page).

The pilot study created a set of impact activities that have contributed knowledge towards the promotion of Valenzuela, one of the cities in EBLs, as a Pathfinder city in the prevention of violence. It also developed a rapid and low-cost qualitative method that can help countries around the world to reach a shared understanding of what is required to implement effective strategies to reduce violence.

International and local events allowed the Consortium to establish collaborations with community and international stakeholders. The pilot has generated 21 scientific publications, which are at different editorial stages, with some already published in academic journals. An early career network and fieldworker training contributed to the professional development of a number of younger researchers, who were involved in data collection, analysis and writing.

Third Wave of EBLs

Covid-19 and other local emergencies affected the running of the study. Early in February 2021, five sites began a third wave of data collection: Valenzuela (Philippines), Hue (Vietnam), Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Koforidua (Ghana) and Kingston (Jamaica). This collaborative effort has been mostly conducted via telephone-based interviews, with children around the age of 18 months. This new wave aims to:

- Contribute to the better understanding of the link between the mothers' exposure to adversity during childhood and pregnancy, and their children's development in the second year of life. The comparative design of the study across five low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) will help to create the foundations of better prevention policy relating to mental health and early child development in LMICs.
- Advance our understanding of the effects that COVID-related restriction measures had on mothers and their small children in low- and middle-income countries. These children will have spent most of their lives under exceptional conditions since the outbreak of the pandemic. Emerging evidence already suggests that the stress, fears and constraints linked to COVID-19 exacerbate health inequalities of families. Vulnerable families may experience more conflict and violence, and be less able to support their young children. These findings will be linked to relevant recommendations for prevention policy.

Future aims

Going forward, the Foundational EBLs study could lead to a long-term birth cohort project on child and family well-being in eight LMICs. This long-term project has the potential to become a ground-breaking



The EBLs report *Addressing Violence Against Children*, featuring on the WHO Inspire's website

contribution to human sciences and an enabler of child and family strengthening strategies. The latest findings already show how different manifestations of poor maternal well-being and psycho-social risk tend to be correlated. A prospective birth cohort study should broadly focus on the dynamics of comorbidity across domains of mental and physical well-being.

Research on healthy child development needs to consider the variety of familial, neighbourhood and structural contexts that shape children's lives globally. In particular, it is necessary to overcome the focus on WEIRD (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich and Democratic) societies and advance the understanding

of mechanisms that vary across cultures. As part of the EBLs-FR collaboration, the Consortium has acquired knowledge and experience on how to develop a large collaborative study, how to manage decisions-making processes effectively, and how to coordinate contracts, ethical approval procedures, protocol and a publication policy.

Public engagement and capacity building

The EBLs-FR has realised a successful portfolio of public engagement and policy impact activities and developed an active capacity development policy. The structures constitute a valuable basis for a long-term collaboration that links research excellence, policy impact and capacity development to explore effective ways to reduce violence against women and children. This strategy could be further strengthened with a possible intervention component and cost allocation that is commensurate with the goals.

To date, the EBLs-FS has led to 14 publications co-authored by 15 senior academics and 20 early career researchers. Members of the Early Career Network made exceptionally valuable contributions to the research output. In a future larger study, the training of early career scholars and students engaged with EBLs should be prioritised as a core project component that is provided from the start.

Regular online workshops with participation from all study sites would also be critical. It would be important to plan a number of visiting scholarships that would allow early career researchers to collaborate with colleagues in other sites on publications and research activities.



M. T. ElGassier, unsplash

Find out more at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/EBLS

Ethical Failures in Policing

Dr Justice Tankebe, University of Cambridge

Policing has some significant transnational ethical problems. One of these is the problem of police violation of ethical norms and the law, such as when officers provide false testimonies, collect bribes, use excessive force, or engage in racial discrimination.

Another ethical problem concerns the choices made by individual police officers when they are confronted with such unethical actions by their colleagues. This is arguably the most fundamental ethical problem in policing because effective accountability, the rule of law, unfettered access to justice, confidence in democratic governance, and preventing police capture by organised crime depends on a solution to the problem of whistleblowing.



This study uses survey data from Ghana to explore the applicability of Wikström's 'Situational Action Theory' to our understanding of why individual police officers choose to resolve the ethical problem of whistleblowing the way they do.



Neil Moralee, CC, flickr

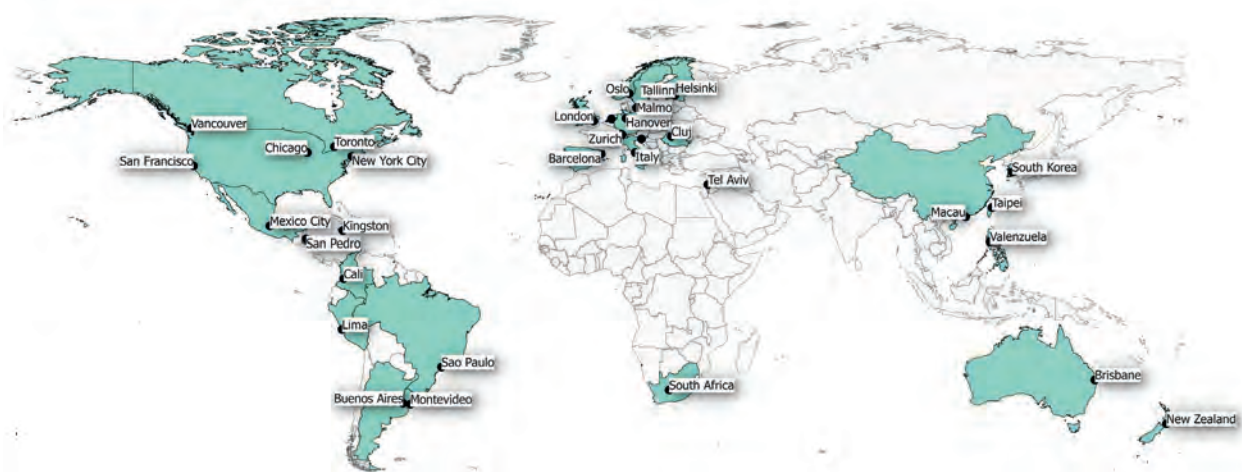
Find out more at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/ethical-failures-policing

Key publication

Tankebe, J. (forthcoming). 'An ethical analysis of police officers' reporting of misconduct by colleagues' In Bottoms, AE & Jacobs, J (eds), *Morality, Crime and Criminal Justice*. Oxford, Oxford University Press

Crime during the Covid-19 Crisis: A Global Analysis

Initiated by Prof Manuel Eisner, VRC, Dr Amy Nivette (University of Utrecht) and Prof Maria Fernanda Peres (University of São Paulo). For a full list of collaborators, visit www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/covid-19-research/crime-during-covid-19-crisis-global-analysis



Research Questions

The emergency measures imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic constitute a unique set of interventions that deeply affect daily routines of people across the globe. Evidence is emerging that crime levels fell for many types of crime during the crisis. However, it is currently unclear:

- Whether the extent and the pattern of decline were similar across societies with different social and economic conditions;
- Whether there is systematic variation in what types of crime declined and the extent to which the decline is associated with characteristics of the regimes imposed on populations during the pandemic (e.g. complete lockdown, partial curfews, prohibition or limitation of alcohol sale, behaviour tracking, etc).

The Study's Scientific and Policy Value

We aim to answer the research questions by taking a global perspective. More specifically, we have been documenting and analysing crime levels before, during and on the way out of the emergency regimes in a large number of cities or urban areas worldwide. We focus on large cities because they are more likely to be comparable and have up-to-date police data. We have been examining the timing of changes in crime patterns, the differences in trends between types of crimes and the extent to which cities differ in their patterns. The data shed light on the similarities and differences in the ways police-recorded crime responded to the emergency measures taken by governments. It will help to better understand what lessons can be learned from pandemic experiences across the world. One or two specialists in each city/country were invited to partner in the study, contribute to the data collection and co-author scientific papers.

Key Publication and Outreach

- Nivette, A.E., Zahnow, R., Aguilar, R. et al. A global analysis of the impact of COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions on crime. *Nat Hum Behav* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01139-z>
- Prof Eisner spoke at a WHO webinar in December 2020, read more about it at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/news/prof-eisner-speaks-who-webinar-covid-19-social-determinants-and-violence

PhD Research Projects

Sergio Triana Enemocon

Understanding the Effect of Reintegration and Crime Prevention Programs on Crime rates. Evidence from Colombia. Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

Menaal Munshey

Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon: Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence, Support and Justice. Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

Lu Liu

Explaining the Variation of Terrorist Groups Engagement in Hostage-taking from a Global Perspective: Is Ideology Relevant? Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

Laura Campo

The Influence of Resilience Factors on the Longitudinal Associations between Adolescent Victimisation and Adverse Mental Health Outcomes. Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

Sarika Dewan

What is the Association between Maternal Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Child Malnutrition? Evidence from Low- and Middle-income Countries and Post-conflict Uganda. Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

Klea Ramaj

The Albanian Cycle of Victimisation: Exploring the Pathways between Maternal Exposure to Violence and Early Child Development. Supervisor: Manuel Eisner

Emmanuel Addo Sowatey

Police Corruption in Ghana. Supervisor: Justice Tankebe

Nicholas Goldrosen

Mentorship Network Structures and the Transmission of Misconduct. Supervisors: Paolo Campana and Justice Tankebe

Sara Trainor

Legitimacy and Private Prosecutions in England. Supervisors: Justice Tankebe and Dr Findlay Stark

Mohammed Zayan Imoro

Institutionalisation of Anti-Corruption Reforms. Supervisor: Justice Tankebe

Vincent Harinam

Dealings on the Dark Web: An Examination of the Network Structure, Robustness, and Growth of a Cryptomarket. Supervisor: Paolo Campana

Alyssa Knisley

Young people and Weapon Carrying. Supervisor: Paolo Campana

Sophie Dixon

Child Sexual Exploitation Networks in the UK Supervisor: Supervisors: Paolo Campana and Loraine Gelsthorpe

Hannah Gaffney

What Works in Cyber Bullying Intervention and Prevention? Exploring Effective Intervention/prevention Strategies and Neglected Risk Factors. Supervisors: Maria Ttofi and David Farrington

Kim Reising

Crime and Health: Long-term Bidirectional and Intergenerational Effects between Mental/physical Health and Offending Behavior. Supervisors: Maria Ttofi and David Farrington

Rebecca Raffan Gowar

New Estimates for the Economic and Social Costs of Crime in England and Wales. Supervisor: Maria Ttofi

Bomin Lee

Childhood Conduct Disorder and Later Offending. Supervisor: Maria Ttofi

Guy Skinner

Mental Health and Offending: Inter-generational Relationships and Casualty in the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development. Supervisors: Maria Ttofi and David Farrington



Surface, Unsplash

Events and Public Engagement

In 2020-2021, events at the VRC and the Institute of Criminology (IoC) continued to be virtual, attracting large audiences internationally. All the events were recorded. To view VRC events, visit www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences. You can find IoC events at www.crim.cam.ac.uk (Events tab). We are also featuring events from international organisations where VRC members delivered presentations and were part of expert panels.

Body-worn Cameras in Policing: the Evidence on what Works

On 1 December, the VRC hosted an Institute of Criminology's virtual event entitled *Body-worn Cameras in Policing: the Evidence on what Works* with partner organisations the Campbell Collaboration and Arnold Ventures. Prof Eisner joined Dr Peter Neyroud, Institute of Criminology and co-chair of the Campbell Collaboration Crime and



Justice Coordinating Group as convenor. Speakers included Prof Cynthia Lum, George Mason University, Chief Constable Andy Marsh, Avon & Somerset Police, Dr Alex Sutherland, Behavioural Insights Team and Ms Asheley Van Ness, Arnold Ventures. The webinar presented findings of a Campbell Collaboration's systematic review entitled *Body-worn cameras' effects on police officers and citizen behavior* by the research team at the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy at George Mason University. Find out more and see the video at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/news/prof-eisner-hosts-body-worn-cameras-policing-webinar.

The Relationship of Conspiracy Beliefs and Violent Extremism



Ms Bettina Rottweiler and Dr Paul Gill from the Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London, talked about the link between right-wing terrorist attacks, occurred in the US, Germany and New Zealand and their connection to conspiracy theories on 22 January 2021. Conspiracy theories include the great replacement theory or white genocide and the fringe conspiracy

theory QAnon, which has been playing a crucial role for domestic security, as it has the potential to lead to domestic acts of terrorism. Find out more and watch the recording at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences.

Contested Public Space: Public sexual harassment and women's safety work



Dr Fiona Vera-Gray, Department of Sociology, Durham University, author of *The Right Amount of Panic: How women trade freedom for safety* was our speaker on 30 April 2021. Her talk was quite topical as the abduction and murder of Sarah Everard in London in March 2021 was followed by an outpouring of grief and rage from women across the world. Many took to online spaces to document for the first time the range of habitual forms of safety work they

perform in public in response to the threat and reality of public sexual harassment. The webinar discussed the range and extent of public sexual harassment on women and girls. Find out more about the event and watch the recording at www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences.

Key Conferences attended by VRC experts

Early Intervention Foundation's (EIF) National Conference



On 8 December 2020, Prof Manuel Eisner was among the speakers of the 2020 EIF National Conference. He participated to a breakout session on Youth crime and Violence with Reshard Auladin (National Crime Agency), Peter Babudu (Youth Endowment Fund), Christine Geeson (Suffolk County Council) and Rachel Coffey (Home Office).

The theme was Youth Crime and Violence. The contributions and subsequent debate addressed these urgent questions: What do we know about what works? How can agencies work together to use the evidence on youth crime and violence? Why is there a gap between what we know works to prevent youth crime and violence, and what is currently being delivered? What action is needed to address that gap? How does evidence generation need to adapt and improve to address racial disproportionality across youth crime and violence outcomes? Find out more about this conference at <https://conference.eif.org.uk>.

Key Conferences - continued

INEGI-UNODC Center of Excellence: 10th Anniversary's webinar



May 2021 marked the 10th anniversary of the UNODC-INEGI Center of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice (CoE) in Mexico City. This partnership, between UNODC and the Mexican National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), boosted national statistical systems and the monitoring capacity of

29 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim to produce evidence-based public policies. To celebrate this anniversary, INEGI and the UNODC Office in Mexico hosted a virtual event to discuss the challenges and future trends of crime statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. Prof Eisner participated to this celebration and was asked for a statement in support of the Center's work. Find out more at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2021/May/unodc-inegi-center-of-excellence_10-years-of-improving-crime-statistics-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean.html



5th International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice

Prof Manuel Eisner and Dr Paolo Campana contributed to the fifth International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics. The conference was aimed at representatives from National Statistical Offices and other sectoral agencies responsible for the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics on crime, victimisation and justice. Members of institutions that develop, monitor and evaluate crime prevention policies and the functioning of the criminal justice system joined



the conference, alongside research institutes, universities, and civil society organisations. The conference sought to promote a dialogue among the stakeholders involved in the production of statistical information on crime and criminal justice, including researchers, policymakers and other data users in order to increase the availability, quality and use of data to inform future public policies. Find out more about the conference at www.gsj.inegi.org.mx/5taconferencia/english/index_english.html.

VRC News and Updates

The academic year 2020-2021 was still challenging as we went back to the Institute in September and were again under lockdown in January for several months. Many of us chose to work remotely afterwards, but we still managed to organise a number of events, while our experts attended a number of virtual conferences across the world. As this report is coming out in the academic year 2021-2022, we have listed our new PhD students on page 17. We also published an update on most of our former PhD students on the website - www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/news/where-are-they-now-our-former-phd-students - we are very proud of them. Our students encountered extra challenges due to coronavirus measures and some had their fieldwork disrupted by the pandemic. Here is a joyous photos of the Institute of Criminology's students on a special outdoor event in the summer of 2021, by kind permission of Prof Loraine Gelsthorpe, the Institute's Director. In the photo you can spot the VRC team member Dr Justice Tankebe, who is the current PhD Director for the Institute. A welcomed event after many months of virtual and remote interactions.



The z-proso project, a joint collaboration between the University of Zurich and the VRC at the University of Cambridge, shared the below photo on social media after a team meeting. Prof Eisner is featured in the centre with the study's Co-director, Dr Denis Ribeaud. Thank you for letting us publish this photo. We are also still wearing masks in public areas at the Institute of Criminology and practise social distancing in lecture rooms and other spaces now the term is underway.



The VRC welcomes a new Research Associate working with Dr Paolo Campana, Dr Cecilia Meneghini. She joins the i-Gov Project (www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/vrcresearch/illegal-governance).

VRC News and Updates - continued

We are also proud of the work of former and current PhD students. Dr Hannah Gaffney co-authored *Effectiveness of school-based programs to reduce bullying perpetration and victimization: An updated systematic review and meta-analysis* with her former PhD supervisors Dr Maria Ttofi and Professor David Farrington - a prestigious Campbell Systematic review on school bullying. She also teamed up with Prof David Farrington and the Campbell Collaboration to conduct a review of research evidence on existing approaches to prevent youth violence on behalf of the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF).



Our current PhD student Klea Ramaj, supervised by Prof Manuel Eisner, published a research article entitled *The Aftermath of Human Trafficking: Exploring the Albanian Victims' Return, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration Challenges* in the *Journal of Human Trafficking*. The article is based on her MPhil dissertation, supervised by Dr Paolo Campana.

Another PhD student, Laura Campo Tena, contributed to a prestigious international report by WHO entitled *Global report on ageism*, which can be found at <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/340208>. Rapid reviews and general research support were provided by Gesa Sophia Borgeest on the intersections between ageism and other “-isms”, and by Laura Campo Tena on campaigns to reduce ageism against younger people, COVID-19 and ageism, the impact of ageism on the well-being of older people and strategies to mitigate the impact of ageism. Major parts of the report were written by Chris Mikton, who was one of the main co-initiators of the EBLIS Study.



Pic: Sir Cam

The VRC would also like to congratulate the PhD students who graduated in this academic year, including Dr Kim Reising, Dr Hannah Gaffney and Dr Sergio Triana. Other students are set to graduate in the academic year 2021-2022.

Last but not least, Prof Eisner was appointed co-Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology* with Prof Darrick Jolliffe,

University of Greenwich. Dr Simone Castello, the VRC Administrator and Webmaster, joined them as Managing Editor in July 2021. Find out more about the journal and submit your papers at www.springer.com/journal/40865. A special issue is in the pipeline for 2022: *Understanding the Developmental Dynamics of Mental Health and Offending*.



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The Violence Research Centre, part of the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge is a non-profit organisation. The University of Cambridge is an exempt charity under Sch 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

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